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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY SUMMARY



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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE

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CONGO

Fighting between UN and Katangan forces entered its third day on 7 December, and statements by the opposing sides indicated little disposition to negotiate.

The UN Command, while building up its troop strength preparatory to ground action, has moved first to destroy Katanga's air capabilities. On 6 December, UN aircraft--Swedish and Indian jet fighters and bombers--attacked Katangan airfields, destroying runways, fuel supplies, and aircraft on the ground. The single Fouga jet trainer which gave air superiority to Katanga in September has reportedly been immobilized. The UN Command now claims control of Katangan air space.

It is not yet clear whether the command intends to use aircraft against Katangan troops, but such a move might prove decisive. On 7 December, UN aircraft reportedly carried out a successful air attack on a Katangan ammunition dump near Elisabethville.

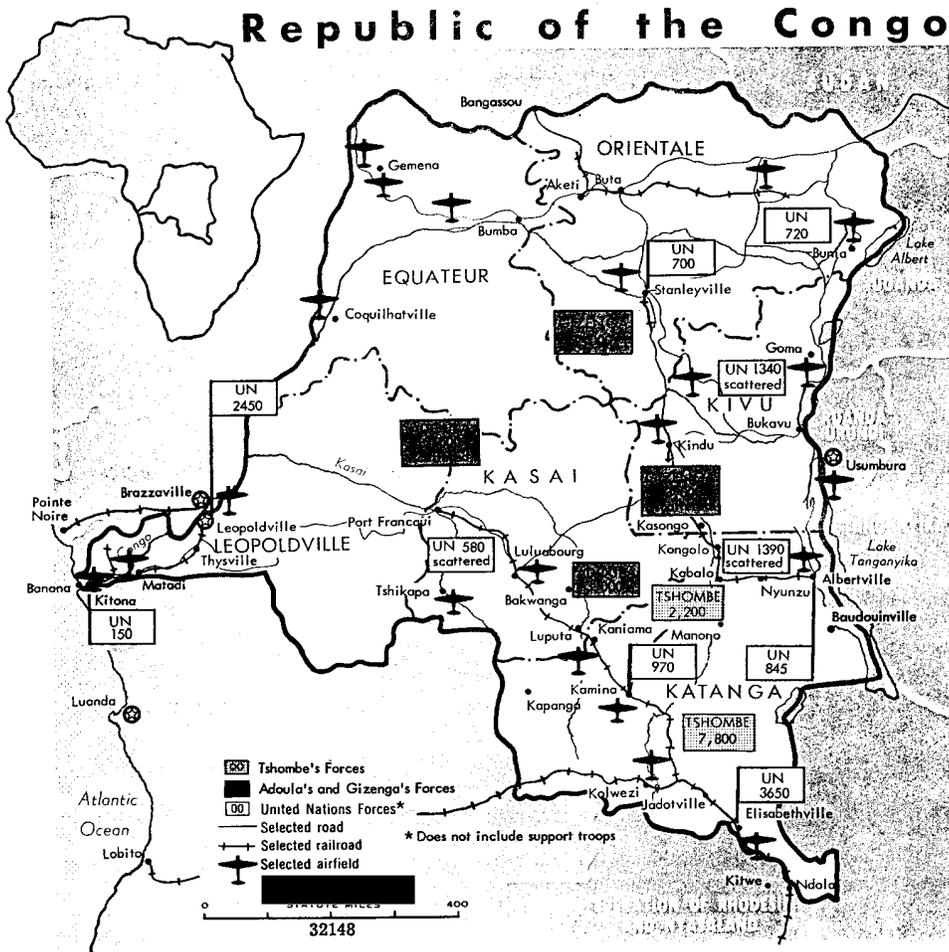
The main UN force is at the Elisabethville airport, which the UN controls. UN forces are also in control of the UN headquarters buildings on the edge of the city. Fighting continues at the headquarters, along the road to the new airport, and at the old, unused airport, where Katangan forces are dug in. With the addition on 6 December of 650 Swedish and Irish troops, UN strength now stands at 3,650, with an additional Nigerian battalion slated to be added.

UN civilian chief Linner has issued instructions to UN officials in Elisabethville "to end the situation there as quickly and effectively as possible." Linner is also reported to have said that now was the time to crush Katanga and that he intended to "denude" the Congo of UN forces elsewhere to build up his strength in Katanga. The UN military commander in Elisabethville, Indian Brigadier Raja, stated publicly that there could be no negotiations. Katangan leaders have made equally bellicose and "fight to the finish" statements, and have exhorted the populace to fight to the end.

The outbreak of hostilities on 4 December followed a series of incidents beginning on 28 November involving beatings and murders of UN soldiers and officials by poorly disciplined Katangan gendarmes. Counteractions and demands of the UN military, and particularly bellicose reactions from UN Indian troops, created an atmosphere of distrust, and led Katangans to believe rumors that the UN forces were about to move against Tshombé's mercenaries and disarm the Katangan gendarmerie.

Before the outbreak, UN officials in the Congo and in New York had stressed that the rotation of UN troops would delay for as long as three to four months any UN attempt to implement the recent Security Council resolution which again authorized the use of force to rid Katanga of its white mercenaries. Up to 3 December, senior UN representative Urquhart in Katanga had stressed the need to rely

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on negotiation, but on 4 December he admitted he was "tired of negotiating." Urquhart's claim to have discovered a Katangan "battle plan" has not been confirmed.

Mutual distrust has been high since the UN-Katanga clash in September, each side frustrated at not having finished the job. UN officials insisted prior to the renewed outbreak that

French mercenaries were masterminding the attacks on UN personnel and were determined to provoke a UN military attack in order to justify a Katangan counterthrust. Tshombé, before he left for Europe, made strong anti-UN statements in reaction to the Security Council resolution against Katanga's secession. A group of Europeans was reported distributing propaganda calling

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for all-out guerrilla warfare against the UN forces. Rumors were also widespread in Elisabethville that Brigadier Raja was eager to "clean up" the city.

Katangan leaders, prodded by pro-secessionist Europeans, may believe that another UN defeat would end attempts to end Katangan autonomy by force. One report indicated that in the event of a UN attack in Katanga the mercenaries planned to withdraw with their equipment into Northern Rhodesia to conduct the war from there.

The UN airlift of UN reinforcements to Elisabethville has provoked a strong anti-American reaction among Katangan leaders. No Americans in Katanga (65-70 in Elisabethville and 135 elsewhere) have yet been molested, but Katangan Foreign Minister Kimba was so angry after the UN air strikes that he put US Consul Hoffacker under house arrest. Tshombé also has voiced anti-American sentiments. More widespread fighting between the Congolese Army and Katangan forces is apparently imminent in northern Katanga. Fighting was reported in late November north of Kongolo, Tshombé's main stronghold in the area. Aided by the UN, Stanleyville-based forces under General Lundula have taken Albertville, Nyunzu, and Kabalo without resistance. Elements of the forces are reported moving south toward Baudouinville, which was recent-

ly reinforced by Tshombé. The advance may be hastened by the immobilization of Katangan aircraft.

General Mobutu's troops, who retreated in disorder in October after their foray into Katanga, are still in Kasai. Adoula now may order these troops back into Katanga.

Tshombé, who had gone to Paris reportedly on his way to a Moral Rearmament conference in Brazil, now is en route back to Elisabethville via Brazzaville. His planned South American trip was probably in fact connected with his efforts to obtain diplomatic recognition of Katanga.

According to Leopoldville Minister of Interior Gbenye, Tshombé, while in Brazzaville en route to Europe, requested a meeting with Adoula, apparently on a raft in the Congo River. Adoula reportedly rejected Tshombé's gesture, insisting that Tshombé come to Leopoldville. The improbability of a negotiated settlement between the two is indicated also by Adoula's rejection of suggestions pushed by Belgium, Britain, and France that a high-level mediator be appointed to bring about a settlement.

Gizenga returned briefly to Stanleyville from northern Katanga to deliver a radio blast against the Adoula government for "collaborating with the

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imperialists" and for failing to push the invasion of Katanga. He apparently is trying to compensate for the failure of an all-party conference he called for 18 November in Stanleyville. His announcement that he was "returning to the front" and his call for all Congolese Army forces to follow his lead suggest he still hopes to achieve ascendancy over Adoula by posing as the victor against Tshombé. Most of Gizenga's former nationalist supporters contest his claims to leadership as Lumumba's heir and for the moment give their support to Adoula.

Adoula on 2 December accredited the diplomatic repre-

sentatives of the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, and Poland. This move is almost certainly the result of pressures on him by the "nationalist" members of his government. Adoula, himself, however, probably sees advantages in the move. The Soviet Union has offered military and economic aid. He may believe that this offer and Soviet recognition of Leopoldville as the legal Congolese government give him not only assurance against renewed Soviet support of Gizenga, but also an opportunity to press for more Western aid, particularly aircraft, outside the framework of the UN. [REDACTED]

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